

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claims 2 and 5-10 are cancelled

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Murphy (6,564,380). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the step of allocating a video camera to each viewer in advance. In the context of an “on demand” system, as originally disclosed and claimed, such allocation is necessarily selectable and in response to a request by a user prior to a performance or event. The allocation is not permanent or predetermined. Support for this amendment can be found at least at page 15, lines 9-11.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to add the feature that a set, comprising a video camera, a remotely operable directional device and an audio input device is operated completely independent of other sets, comprising the video camera, the remotely operable directional device and the audio input device. Thus, the operations of each viewer are not affected by the operations of other viewers. Support for this amendment can be found at least at page 7, lines 15-20.

Murphy describes a video feed remote control system having a plurality of cameras that are connected to viewers via the Internet and can be controlled by viewers. The focus in Murphy is the provision of a video feed remote control system that reduces the production cost of TV content by controlling on-site cameras. Murphy’s system provides a live video feed from large numbers of cameras to a large number of production companies (col. 3, lines 3-8). The video feeds may be requested by a subscriber through a video propagation server, and a master authorization server grants access to a requested video feed by issuing an access code, as discussed at col. 4, lines 13-44. However, Murphy does not disclose nor consider the problem of providing a privilege-based access to the cameras or their control in advance, nor does it mention or otherwise offer a solution to such problem.

Thus, amended claim 1 differs from Murphy in that the claimed method comprises the step of “allocating the video cameras to each viewer in advance.” Thus, the present invention

can provide an on-demand camera relay method that assigns each camera to a viewer on request, and enables each viewer whose request has been fulfilled to control one or more of the allocated cameras without being affected by other viewers (page 4, lines 16-20). In other words, the present method provides an ability in the system to assign a privilege or right to a viewer to control cameras when the number of viewers is larger than the number of cameras (page 2, lines 4-7 and page 4, lines 17-21). The present invention has solved the problem of distributing limited resources by the allocating step mentioned above.

The above-mentioned features of the present method, which are not disclosed in Murphy, lead to the following advantages: The allocating step can solve the problem of privilege. All viewers can keep their own cameras during the program. This means that each viewer can reserve a video camera in advance, in the same manner that a fan or patron can have reserved seats for a baseball game or live theater. The application of the claimed method of the present invention to the broadcasting of a baseball game or live theater is described at page 13, lines 19-21 of the specification. Since each video camera is completely independent of other video cameras, viewers are not affected by the operations of other viewers. Such advantages are not attainable or even disclosed in Murphy.

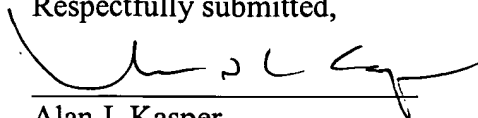
Claim 3 has also been amended in a similar manner and would be patentable for the same reasons. Support for the amendments of claim 3 can also be found at page 15, lines 9-11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
09/930,256

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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